

SKYLINE WINTER YURT GUIDE

The Skyline yurt is conveniently situated off the groomed Skyline trail, that is a popular loop used by Nordic skiers and snowshoers. The yurt provides easy access to over 27 miles of groomed and 50 miles of marked ski trails. The yurt is located on a high sunny knob, which provides a 200-degree view to the south, east, and north. The view from the yurt is one of the best in the Boise National Forest. From the yurt deck you can see Wolf Mountain, Steele Mountain, Sunset Peak, and Pilot's Peak. The open, rolling terrain below the yurt provides beginner telemarkers a chance to polish their skills. Snow is usually available for skiing from December 1 to April 7.

Difficulty:

Advanced beginner to intermediate. The difficulty of touring trails can increase in poor snow conditions and weather. Skiers can expect short, steep sections of trail to herringbone up. Climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should be thoroughly prepared and travel with someone that has been to the yurt and can readily find it. The Skyline trail is generally groomed on Thursday or Friday from December 1 to March 15. You should not count on the trail being groomed, but a freshly groomed trail will substantially reduce the amount of energy necessary to get to the yurt.

Where to Park:

The Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot is 20 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. An Idaho Park N' Ski permit is required to park in this plowed area. Please park your vehicles close together and parallel in front of the toilet. The Department of Transportation snow plow operators become frustrated when they cannot completely plow the parking lot. You should also bring a shovel because you might have to dig your car out in case it gets plowed in. Do not park on Highway 21.

How to Get to the Yurt:

The trails are marked with blue and yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. The recommended approach to the yurt is to take the Summit trail to the first intersection of Skyline/Summit trail's intersection, .3 miles, stay left and straight. Follow the blue blazes on Skyline trail for about 1.3 miles to the Skyline/Ralph's trails' intersection, where you will see a sign for summer yurt parking. Continue on Skyline trail for about .4 miles passing the highest point of the trail. Immediately upon descending on the trail, you should see a 4x4 wooden post on your right, with 4" yellow blazes and a large (2') solid yellow diamond shaped sign on it. From this sign, follow the smaller 4" yellow blazes west and up the hill about 200 yards to the yurt. The yurt sits on the highest point in the area. You cannot see the yurt from the sign post.

Elevation Gain and Distance:

About a 600 feet rise over 2.0 miles (one-way). There are a few short steep sections.

Water:

The nearest creek water is about 1/2 mile away and is not easily accessible in the winter. Your best bet is to use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water for 10 minutes before using.

Wood Pile:

Wood for the stove is located under the yurt entry deck. You may have to dig your way to the wood pile.

Special Equipment Needed:

Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels.

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic, "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

Global Positioning System Locations (UTM):

Banner Ridge Yurt	11T0613322 4876847	Banner Ridge Parking Lot	11T0611806 4875331
Elkhorn Yurt	11T0613295 4875239	Gold Fork Parking Lot	11T0611888 4871724
Skyline Yurt	11T0613053 4872294	Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot	11T0610113 4868429

WARNING:

Winter travel and the use of the yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.

